

Sub

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the
2 stimulus control information without translating the stimulus control information into
3 a different form.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information includes a command selected from the group consisting of a handset volume control

command, a handset connect/disconnect command, an audio stream open/close command, and a ringer activation command.

19. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller receives one or more packets containing a stimulus message from the packet interface, the controller further decapsulating the one or more packets to obtain the stimulus message for transmission to the digital interface.

20. A method for use in a telephony system, comprising:
communicating stimulus control information with a stimulus device through a first interface and packet information with a packet-based network through a packet interface;
encapsulating stimulus control information received from the first interface; and
transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control information as at least one packet to the packet interface.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
decapsulating one or more packets received from the packet interface and containing stimulus control information; and
transmitting the stimulus control information to the first interface.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the stimulus control information is in a native stimulus language, and wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information includes inserting the stimulus control information in its native stimulus language into a payload of the at least one packet.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information includes adding a network protocol header to the stimulus control information.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information includes adding an Internet Protocol header.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control
2 information further includes adding a User Datagram Protocol header.

1 26. The method of claim 20, further comprising scrambling the stimulus
2 control information before encapsulating.

1 27. The method of claim 20, further comprising encrypting the at least one
2 packet.

1 28. An article including one or more machine-readable storage media
2 containing instructions for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when
3 executed causing a device to:
4 receive data according to a stimulus protocol from a first interface;
5 encapsulate the data into one or more packets; and
6 communicate the one or more packets to a packet-based data network.

1 29. The article of claim 28, wherein the one or more storage media contain
2 instructions that when executed causes the device to:
3 receive a packet containing data according to the stimulus protocol;
4 decapsulate the packet; and
5 communicate the data according to the stimulus protocol to the first
6 interface.

1 30. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and containing instructions
2 for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when executed causing a device
3 to:
4 receive at least one packet containing a stimulus message according to
5 a first language;
6 decapsulate the at least one packet to extract the stimulus message
7 according to the first language; and
8 send the stimulus message according to the first language to a stimulus
9 device.

add

add a2
add
c1

6 network.

34. An apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:
means for receiving a stimulus message from a stimulus device;
means for encapsulating the stimulus message into at least one packet;
and
means for transmitting the at least one packet to a packet-based
network.